

- maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;
- b. a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound, said seal including an adhesive material on the cover for securing said cover to the tissue surrounding the wound; and
  - c. reduced pressure supply means adapted to connect to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply said reduced pressure beneath the cover.

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83.

A method of treating a wound comprising the steps of:

- a. applying a reduced pressure to the wound, wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. below atmospheric pressure; and
- b. maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward cessation of partial thickness burn progression.

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84.

The method as recited in claim 83 wherein said applying step comprises the steps of:

- a. locating an impermeable cover over the wound, said cover having a suction port;
- b. sealing the periphery of said impermeable cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and
- c. operably connecting said suction port with a vacuum system for producing said reduced pressure.

44  
85.

A method of treating a wound comprising the steps of:

- a. applying a reduced pressure to the wound, wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure; and
- b. maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward at least a 50% reduction in bacterial density in the wound.